

Briefing Paper for St Peters SGM on 30 October 2016

Background –Several years ago the diocese ordered engineering reports for every church in the diocese as a follow on from the Christchurch earthquakes. Holy Cross St Kilda was found to be so below safety standards that the parishioners were asked to stop using the building for worship immediately. Since then the Holy Cross parishioners have been using the adjacent hall as their place of Sunday worship. After a long pause it was decided to sell the church and the land on which it stands. The Bishop recently secularized/de-consecrated the church.

In preparation for the sale the Holy Cross parish has been removing important items from the church to appropriate alternative sites. Amongst these are the stained glass windows. The Holy Cross committee and their Vicar Jan Clark are in favour of these being relocated to St Peter's. The Revd Jan Clark approached the Vicar who expressed an interest in the possibility of removing and receiving four of these windows. The St Peter's Vestry discussed this possibility and while wanting to assist Holy Cross in this way made it clear that they would need to know that the project had general and strong support from the Holy Cross parishioners.

The Revd Jan Clark replied to the Vestry query in this way:

The Holy Cross committee have already spoken about the possibility of some of the stained glass windows being relocated to St Peter's and are in favour of this option. Until this morning the congregation had not had the opportunity to discuss this matter. Today we had a Deanery service at Holy Cross, Bishop Kelvin and Clemency were with us.

I summarised the discussion the committee has had and the concerns felt by the St Peter's vestry noting that before a formal and public consultation started they would need to know St Kilda were happy with the intended relocation.

There is **unanimous support** for the relocation of the windows to St Peter's. We realise the removal is risky and the windows may be fragile but clearly the preferred option is that they be used to enhance public worship. The Bishop also commented that having the windows in a sacred space was a preference he thought people would support.

Historical links – St Peter's Caversham brought Holy Cross into being. The Church was originally a mission chapel of the parish. Once St Peter's had got the Anglican community in St Kilda on their feet Holy Cross became a parish in its own right in 1917. Several past Vicars of St Peter's became Vicars of Holy Cross at a later stage in their ministry.

Calling an SGM – The St Peter's Vestry think it important to obtain general support from the parishioners before proceeding with the project, hence the calling of a Special General Meeting of parishioners after the 10.30 am Service on Sunday 30 October 2016.

The Windows - There are seven stained glass windows in Holy Cross. St Peter's has expressed an interest in four of them. They are:



EL Woodhouse memorial window with Canon BM King's memorial cross in front.

Edward Liversey Woodhouse arrived in New Zealand with a friend, Rev WAR Fitchett in 1902. Born 1876 in Blackburn, his father and two of his brothers were also vicars. He was appointed assistant curate at St Peter's on 20 June 1902, playing a prominent part in the early years of Holy Cross and ordained a priest on 21 December 1904. Rev Woodhouse obtained an MA from Cambridge on his return to England in 1909 and formally severed his ties with Holy Cross when he was given the Balclutha parish in the latter half of 1910. He returned to Dunedin in 1913 when he was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Mornington and went on to conduct seven services in Holy Cross, often in conjunction with Rev Coates.

Rev Woodhouse was last seen alive on Friday, 19 June 1914, walking from Stirling to Balclutha in order to catch the train to Dunedin. Synod was in session at the time and a memorial service was held on 25 June at St Paul's Cathedral. His body was recovered from the Molyneux River on 27 July and he was buried in the old Balclutha Cemetery the following day.

Rev WAR Fitchett wrote about his friend, *For some years he has been examiner for the Diocesan Sunday School Union examinations, and he was active in advocating Sunday School reform. ... He was Diocesan Secretary of the CEMS, a Boy Scout Chaplain, and he not only edited, but to a large extent created, "The Church Envoy."*

Holy Cross paid tribute to him with the central stained glass window in the sanctuary.



World War Two memorial window

This window was unveiled at evensong on 10 February 1946. The ODT reported on the event a few days afterwards.

*To those who fell - Memorial Window Dedicated - Ceremony at Holy Cross Church
A ceremony of the dedication of a memorial window, which commemorates the supreme sacrifice made by four members of the Holy Cross Church, St Kilda, who fought in the Second*

World War, took place last Sunday.

The window, which was dedicated by the Rev LD Groves, has been erected in the baptistery of the church. It was designed by Mr JW Brock, and is a half-circle in shape. The subject is our Divine Lord blessing little children. The figure of the Christ is seated in the centre, and there are a number of little children around Him. The subject is well placed and balanced. Our Lord is dressed in rich ruby-coloured robes, with a gold-and-silver overdress, and has His hand on the head of one of the children, and he looks towards a mother who is kneeling apart and dressed in beautiful varied purple. The foreground has a floral motif, and the surrounds are of a natural landscape. The whole scene is surrounded by a leaf border, and is in silver and gold. The window is a very beautiful picture in stained glass, and is in keeping with the interior of the church



Peacock memorial window

This window above the pulpit was unveiled in July 1958, six months after the death of Ann Louise Peacock. Very little is known about Ann Louise Peacock except that she died aged 72 years and her address was the Caledonian Hotel, Andersons Bay Road. Her husband, Frank died in 1969 and they are buried together in Andersons Bay Cemetery.



Wingfield, Priest and Dickie memorial window

The Wingfield Memorial Fund had been opened in late 1941 as a tribute to the work of Rev Albert Wingfield. It was expanded to include Percy Priest and James Dickie and led to the erection of a window on the western side of the church at a cost of £95. The window was unveiled at Holy Cross on 22 December 1946.

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The window was made in Dunedin, the artist being Mr JW Brock. Considering the size and shape

there are more figures than usual in the composition. The work of cutting and leading of the many pieces has been executed by WA Raffills with great skill.

The Woodhouse memorial window has a direct connection with St Peter's Caversham as the Revd Woodhouse was the curate working to Fr Bryan King in the period just before the Great War who worked hard to lay the foundations for the eventual parish of Holy Cross St Kilda.

Costs – It would cost \$1,120 to remove the windows together with \$345 worth of scaffolding to remove the Woodhouse window, which is higher than the others. It would cost approximately \$400 to make two storage cases to store the windows, thus a total cost of \$1,865. Holy Cross would be responsible for making the empty window frames water tight.

Relocating and resiting of the windows – None of the present stained glass windows in St Peters would be replaced by these four windows. They would be safely stored here at St Peters until the parish had worked through a patient and careful process of deciding where to rehouse them. The Vestry would call a further SGM to seek approval for its eventual proposals.

Inserting the windows into the brick walls would be expensive. Two tentative ideas that have come from Vestry members that avoid such an insertion have been to either insert the windows in to the plain glass windows in the Link or to create a glass screen around the altar at the back of the Church that is used for mid-week Services in the way Coventry cathedral used stained glass to border the Chapel the Resurrection.

Today's decision – Today's meeting is to decide whether to approve the removal of these four windows and their storage at St Peters against the day of their eventual relocating in a suitable place(s) in the Church or Link.